

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-10: (canceled)

Claim 11. (currently amended): ~~The method according to claim 10,~~ A method of identifying evidence of a neoplasm in a biological sample comprising:

(a) examining a level of expression of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes the protein of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 (Figure 1), in a test biological sample; and

(b) comparing the level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample to a level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression found in a comparable normal biological sample,

wherein an enhanced level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products in the test biological sample relative to the normal biological sample is evidence of a neoplasm, and
wherein the neoplasm is a prostate cancer.

Claim 12-18: (canceled)

Claim 19. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 18,~~ A method of identifying evidence of a neoplasm in a biological sample comprising:

(a) examining a level of expression of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes the protein of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 (Figure 1), in a test biological sample; and

(b) comparing the level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample to a level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression found in a comparable normal biological sample,

wherein an enhanced level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products in the test biological sample relative to the normal biological sample is evidence of a neoplasm,

wherein the 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 evaluated in the test biological sample is secreted from neoplastic cells, and wherein the neoplastic cells are prostate cancer cells.

Claims 20-54. (canceled)

Claim 55. (currently amended): ~~The method according to claim 54,~~ A method of identifying evidence of a neoplasm in a biological sample comprising:

(a) examining a level of expression of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes the protein encoded by a cDNA clone 20P1F12-GTC1 contained in the plasmid deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) as Accession No. 207097, in a test biological sample; and

(b) comparing the level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample to a level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression found in a comparable normal biological sample;

wherein an enhanced level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products in the test biological sample relative to the normal biological sample is evidence of a neoplasm; and

wherein the neoplasm is a prostate cancer.

Claims 56-61. (canceled)

Claim 62. (newly presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample is evaluated by examining the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 63. (newly presented): The method of claim 62, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein is evaluated by an immunoassay by contacting the sample with antibody or fragment thereof immunoreactive with said protein and observing the presence or absence of an immunocomplex formed from the antibody or fragment with any 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 64. (newly presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample is evaluated by examining the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 65. (newly presented): The method of claim 64, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein is evaluated by an immunoassay by contacting the sample with antibody or fragment thereof immunoreactive with said protein and observing the presence or absence of an immunocomplex formed from the antibody or fragment with any 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 66. (newly presented): The method according to claim 55, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample is evaluated by examining the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 67. (newly presented): The method of claim 66, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein is evaluated by an immunoassay by contacting the sample with antibody or fragment thereof immunoreactive with said protein and observing the presence or absence of an immunocomplex formed from the antibody or fragment with any 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 68. (newly presented): The method of claim 55, wherein the 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products evaluated in the test biological sample are secreted from neoplastic cells.